

IP
Patent

Attorney Docket No. 1012774-000002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Hiroaki Sano et al.

Application No.: 10/525,972

Filing Date: February 28, 2005

Title: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS
AND TUBE CONNECTING METHOD

) **MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

) Group Art Unit: 3726

) Examiner: John C. Hong

) Confirmation No.: 3183

AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

- ☐ A Petition for Extension of Time is enclosed.
- ☐ _____ Terminal Disclaimer(s) and the ☐ \$ 70 ☐ \$ 140 fee per Disclaimer due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are enclosed.
- ☐ Also enclosed is/are: _____
- ☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.
- ☐ Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the ☐ \$ 405 ☐ \$ 810 fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).
- ☐ Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered. Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified above.
- ☐ Applicant(s) previously submitted _____ on _____ for which continued examination is requested.
- ☐ Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least _____, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.
- ☐ A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

- ☒ No additional claim fee is required.
- ☐ An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below:

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	No. of Claims	Highest No. of Claims Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Rate	Additional Fee
Total Claims	21	21	0	x \$ 52 (1202)	\$ 0
Independent Claims	2	3	0	x \$ 220 (1201)	0
<input type="checkbox"/> If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$ 390 (1203)					\$ 0
Total Claim Amendment Fee					\$ 0
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status claimed - subtract 50% of Total Claim Amendment Fee					0
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$ 0

- ☐ Charge _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800 for the fee due.
- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is enclosed for the fee due.
- ☐ Charge _____ to credit card for the fee due. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

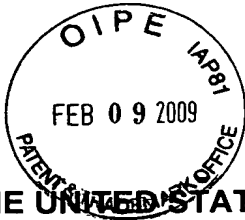
Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date February 9, 2009

By: Matthew L. Schneider
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32814

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Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 1012774-000002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Hiroaki Sano et al.)	
Application No.: 10/525,972)	Group Art Unit: 3726
Filed: February 28, 2005)	Examiner: John C. Hong
)	Confirmation No.: 3183
For: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS)	
AND TUBE CONNECTING)	
METHOD)	
)	
)	

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated January 5, 2009, the following remarks are submitted.

The aforementioned Official Action indicates that the claims in this application are directed to two different inventions. As identified in the Official Action, the two inventions are as follows.

Group I invention defined in Claims 1-18 drawn to a tube connecting apparatus.

Group II invention as shown in Claims 19 and 21 drawn to a tube connecting method.

Based on the observation that the two inventions are distinct from one another, a restriction requirement has been imposed requiring an election of one of the two inventions.

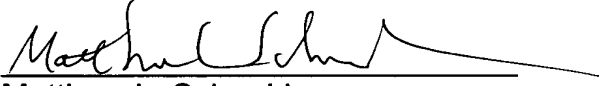
Applicants hereby elect the Group I invention recited in Claims 1-18, it being noted that the unity of invention standard should apply here and that a search and examination of both groups of claims have already been conducted, thus strongly supporting the notion that no serious burden would result if simultaneous examination of both sets of claims continues.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: February 9, 2009

By: 
Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32814

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